

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05

SAM-01 EURE-00 /085 W

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O P 171821Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3315

INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SS, MO, SP, UN

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: SPANISH REACTION TO ICJ ADVISORY OPINION
AND REPORT OF DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE

REF: A. MADRID 7067; B. THE HAGUE 5278 C. USUN 5106

SUMMARY: LOCAL MEDIA HAVE GIVEN FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT TO ICJ
ADVISORY OPINION AND REPORT PREPARED BY INVESTIGATING TEAM OF
UN'S DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE. MATTER-OF-FACT REPORTING
(REFLECTING THE CONTENTS OF THE ICJ OPINION AS REPORTED BY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE) HAS UNDERSCORED VIEW THAT ISSUE IS NOW IN
HANDS OF UN AND WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE SOME FORM OF CONSULTATION OF
SAHARAN PEOPLE TO LIVE UP TO PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION.
INITIAL REACTION TO KING HASSAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF MASS PILGRIMAGE
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TO SAHARA HAS BEEN INCREDULITY. THE MEDIA GIVE IMPRESSION

THAT GOS IS PREPARED TO DEAL BILATERALLY WITH MOROCCO ON MODALITIES OF ANY REFERENDUM. RELEASE OF 16 MOROCCAN MILITARY PRISONERS IS SPANISH GESTURE TO GOM. END SUMMARY.

1. IN PAST WEEK NEWSPAPERS HAVE FRONT-PAGED DETAILS OF REPORT SUBMITTED BY INVESTIGATING COMMISSION OF UN DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE TO SAHARA AND ICJ'S ADVISORY OPINION ON SAHARAN ISSUE REFLECTING CONTENTS AS REPORTED IN REF B. GOS HAS MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENT AS YET BUT MEDIA INDICATE CLEARLY THAT GOVT VIEWS ISSUE AS IN HANDS OF UN AND SPAIN INTENDS TO DECOLONIZE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO BE ADOPTED IN UNGA.

2. THE INITIAL REACTION TO KING HASSAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT OCT 16 OF A PILGRIMAGE BY 350,000 MOROCCANS INTO THE SAHARA HAS BEEN INCREDULITY. SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE SUGGESTED HASSAN HAS GONE ROUND THE BEND.

3. THESE THINGS HAVE SOMEWHAT OBSCURED OCT 17 RELEASE OF 16 MOROCCAN PRISONERS CAPTURED JULY 22 IN SAHARA. RELEASE IS PORTRAYED IN SPANISH PRESS AS CALCULATED GESTURE OF GOOD-WILL TOWARDS MOROCCO. A SECOND GROUP OF 44 SOLDIERS CAPTURED IN MOROCCAN UNIFORMS JUNE 8 ARE REPORTEDLY STILL HELD IN THE SPANISH SAHARA.

4. "INFORMACIONES" (INDEPENDENT) REPORTED OCT 15 THAT "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" SAID THAT GOS DID NOT WANT TO PROVOKE RABAT PREFERRING INSTEAD TO MAINTAIN A FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARDS MOROCCO AND NOUAKCHOTT ON THE ISSUE OF ORGANIZING A REFERENDUM OF SAHARANS. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, BY ALLOWING "SAHARAN REFUGEES" IN MOROCCO TO VOTE IN REFERENDUM, AND THE ADJACENT COUNTRIES TO TAKE PART IN SUPERVISING IT, THE OUTCOME COULD HAVE SOME "SURPRISES". FRONT-PAGE REPORT IN "INFORMACIONES" CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT THAT "RABAT KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THAT ONLY THROUGH SPAIN CAN IT OBTAIN ITS ENDS". THIS PUBLIC SIGNAL TO RABAT ECHOES COMMENTS OF DIRGEN OF SAHARAN AFFAIRS (REF A) TO EMBOFF INTIMATING THAT WAY MIGHT BE FOUND FOR MOROCCAN SUPPORTERS TO VOTE EARLY AND OFTEN IN SAHARAN REFERENDUM.

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5. AS SOON AS THE SPANISH HAVE TIME TO COLLECT THEIR WITS, WE WILL TRY TO GET THEIR MEASURED ASSESSMENT OF WHAT HASSAN'S SPEECH MEANS TO THEM CERTAINLY, AS AMBASSADOR DE PINIES NOTED AT THE UN, THE SPANISH WOULD BE INCLINED TO ASK THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE AFFAIR OF HASSAN'S GRAND TOUR (REF C). LATEST MILITARY INCIDENT (FBIS 1636 2892324) IN WHICH 9 MOROCCAN SOLDEIRS WERE KILLED OCT 13

IN SKIRMISH WITH F POLISARIO MEMBERS (ONE OF WHOM WAS ALSO
KILLED) AFTER PENETRATING SPANISH SAHARA NEAR MAHBES COULD
FURTHER EXACERBATE SITUATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, NEGOTIATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID07220
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750361-0316
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751043/aaaabmfu.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 7067, 75 THE HAGUE 5278
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH SAHARA: SPANISH REACTION TO ICJ ADVISORY OPINION AND REPORT OF DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SS, MO, SP, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006